

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

☐ WAIVER REQUEST
☐ ANSWER
☒ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
☐ UNTIMELY

DATE: 12/11/2020

DOCKET #: 2020-658

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division



FILER INFORMATION

Name: Mr. Robert Van Westmoreland
Address: 128 Pine Acres Dr, Leesville, LA 71446
Office/Position: Central Louisiana Human Service District
Dates of Service: 2010-2017
Number of Disclosures and/or Amendments Filed with Agency: 9

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2017
Report ID: PFD20000020
Original Due Date: 5/15/2018
NOD Received: 12/7/2018 - Signed by: Ruth Ann Westmoreland
PFD/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 12/18/2018
PFD/Answer Filed: 12/31/2019

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$250
Days late from receipt of NOD: 378
Total days late from initial due date: 595
Late Fee Order Received: 4/20/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 5/11/2020
Waiver Request Received: 5/7/2020
Board Result: 11/6/2020
Reconsideration Request Due Date: 11/30/2020
Reconsideration Request Received: 11/30/2020

COMMENTS:

Robert Westmoreland is requesting a Reconsideration for the suspended portion of his late fee assessment. Mr. Westmoreland, thanks the Ethics Board for reducing his fine, but believes he does not owe the BOE any money because he submitted his report on 4/22/2017 (date he filed his 2016 PFD). He stated while he was chairman of the CLHS Board, he ensured that everyone complied with the BOE. Mr. Westmoreland is a disable Veteran, that "needs his money" and is "tired of fighting with the BOE" regarding this late fee assessment. He stated that he and his family have been impacted by the Coronavirus, Hurricane Laura and Hurricane Delta.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

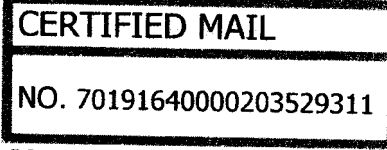
- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No



I request reconsideration. !

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

Please read my response to the Board members. Someone's incompetence cost me \$250 at a time I need the money



November 23, 2020

ROBERT VAN WESTMORELAND
128 PINE ACRES DR
LEESVILLE, LA 71446

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2017
Report ID: PFD20000020
Docket ID: 2020-658

Dear Mr. Westmoreland:

At its November 2020 meeting, the *Board of Ethics* considered your request for a "good cause" waiver of the \$1,500 late fee assessed for failing to timely file the Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering calendar year 2017.

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that it **SUSPENDED A PORTION** of the \$1,500 original late fee. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$250, payable to the *Louisiana State Treasurer*, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You have 20 days from receipt of this notice to pay the reduced amount or to dispute the assessment.

To dispute the assessment, you may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may **request reconsideration** of the reduced amount to the *Board of Ethics*. If you choose to request reconsideration, your request should include additional information not previously provided or available to the Board during its initial consideration of the matter. If you would like to appear before the *Board of Ethics* in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. If you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting. The request should be submitted to: *Louisiana Board of Ethics*, Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271. If the *Board of Ethics* denies your request, you may appeal the reassessment to the *Ethics Adjudicatory Board*.
2. You may **request an appeal** of the reduced amount to the *Ethics Adjudicatory Board*. If you choose to request an appeal, your request shall include all grounds for which the late filer is seeking an appeal, along with any documentation and evidence. Your request should be submitted to: *Louisiana Board of Ethics* at Post Office Box 4368, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821. You may also fax the request to 225/381-7271.

If you do not pay the \$250 reduced amount or dispute the assessment within 20 days of receipt of this notice, then the \$1,500 original late fee becomes *immediately* due and owing and will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website. If you timely submit a request for reconsideration or appeal, your name will not be posted on the agency website.

Additionally, the suspension is based on future compliance with the Code of Governmental Ethics. Therefore, if you fail to comply with the Code of Governmental Ethics in the future, the \$1,250 suspended portion of the late fee shall be reassessed and become immediately due and owing.

Note that any unpaid fines, fees, or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office, as the *Board of Ethics* will object to your candidacy in future elections pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and 18:492.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF ETHICS

Tracy M. Barker

Tracy M. Barker
For the Board

(Cont) I appreciate the suspended portion but I don't owe anything. I filled my report and mailed it on 4-22-17, my records document this. I was the CLHS Board chairman at the time and it was my duty & responsibility to see that all Board members comply with BOE. I pay this under protest and request this be read into the records at the next BOE meeting. As a disabled Vietnam Veteran,

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

*11-29-30
Paid 250⁰⁰ to
Board of Ethics.
check # 428.
I'm tired of fighting
them. After Covid virus
Hurricanes Laura + Delta
which all hit my family
hard, they still won't quit.*